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# Public Testimony By

## THURMOND DECLARES PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR U-2 PILOT'S OWN STORY

Proposes Senate Committee Summon Flier;  
Sparkman Asks Full Report For  
Foreign Relations Panel

Washington, Feb. 12 (AP)—Senators began moving in today on the many mysterious aspects of Francis Gary Powers's adventures behind the Iron Curtain and his release.

Senator Thurmond (D., S.C.) proposed that the 32-year-old U-2 pilot be called before a public session of the Senate Armed Services Committee to tell about his capture. In suggesting this, Thurmond said:

"In fairness to Mr. Powers, the American people need to hear his story from Mr. Powers himself.

"If there is no blame, this ought to be brought out."

**Russell Silent**

Aides of Senator Russell (D., Ga.), who heads the Armed Services Committee, said Russell would have no comment at this time on Thurmond's suggestion.

The acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Sparkman (D., Ala.), called on the State Department to give the committee a full report on its interrogation of Powers.

This interrogation, which is expected to bring military, diplomatic and intelligence officials clustering around Powers in a closely guarded room, apparently still lies ahead.

**Reunion Reported**

The only official word on the pilot's whereabouts during the day was this statement:

"The facts are that he is here and that he is seeing his family and will be going through this interrogation."

That word came from Lincoln White, press officer, at the State Department.

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, who revealed Powers's release in an early-morning prisoner exchange with the Soviet Saturday, had nothing further to say today. He referred inquiries to the State Department.

**Abel Is Exchanged**

Powers, whose capture deep inside Russia created an international uproar in May, 1960, was traded with another American prisoner for a Soviet spy, Rudolf I. Abel.

Powers was flown back to this country and reunited with some members of his family at an undisclosed rendezvous. Government officials used elaborate methods to prevent the public from learning where the Powers family met.

White was asked at the State Department whether the flier is "under detention" and he replied "no—not to my knowledge."

Evidently the only family members who have been permitted to see Powers thus far are his wife Barbara, who flew here from her mother's home at Milledgeville, Ga., and possibly his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver W. Powers, of Norton, Va.

**Reunion Near Capital**

The reunion is believed to be taking place along the Atlantic coast, presumably within 100 to 150 miles of Washington.

There was no comment at the State Department on Sparkman's request for a report to the Foreign Relations Committee. Spark-

## Powers In Senate Is Urged

Committee to be briefed on what information Powers gives his questioners.

Among the points in which committee members expressed interest were these:

Was Powers's high-flying reconnaissance plane shot down from more than 60,000 feet altitude as the Russians said, or was he forced down by mechanical trouble?

What were the circumstances of his capture? The Russians said Powers could have destroyed his plane, along with its cameras and other equipment. They also said he carried the means of self-destruction.

Senator Cannon (D., Nev.) said he was "disappointed in Mr. Powers's conduct after his capture" and expressed hope the Armed Services Committee would call him for questioning.

Cannon said he wants to know what sort of training or indoctrination Powers had received to prepare himself for the possibility of capture.

man wrote to the U.S. Secretary of State, recalling that the committee conducted lengthy hearings on the U-2 spy plane incident in the summer of 1960.

"We are interested now in completing those hearings by receiving such information as may now be available from Mr. Powers," he told Russell.

Sparkman acted in the absence of the chairman, Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), who is on a trip to his home state.

**CIA Connection Assumed**

Sparkman said that if necessary the committee will ask for a briefing from officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, which will have charge of questioning Powers. While it never has been officially acknowledged, it is widely assumed that Powers worked for the CIA.

Sparkman said there are no present plans for the committee to question Powers personally; but, he added, "this is not to be taken as absolutely final."

As a starter, he said, the committee will question State Department officials.

**Briefing Supported**

"We will want the full story, regardless of what agency may have possession of the information," Sparkman added. "I don't believe there is any question but what the CIA will make available a full report..."

Senator Mansfield (D., Mont.), Senate Democratic leader, said, it would be "sound and reasonable" for the Foreign Relations